

House Resolution No. 4901

Whereas, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize Presiding Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., an esteemed resident of Shreveport, Louisiana, who is to be commended for his election as President of the National Council of Churches on November 6, 2003; and

Whereas, the forty-eighth Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Hoyt holds distinction as the first of two bishops elected to the 1994 General Conference held in Memphis, Tennessee; and

Whereas, the first Christian Methodist Episcopal Bishop to be elected president of the National Council of Churches, Bishop Hoyt served as a professor in New Testament at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, from 1972 to 1978, Howard University School of Religion in Washington, D.C., from 1978 to 1980, and Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut, from 1980 to 1994, during which time he initiated the Black Ministries Certificate Program, which trained more than five hundred lay and clergy persons in a thirteen-year period; and

Whereas, Bishop Hoyt came into this world in Fayette, Alabama, on March 14, 1941, as the tiny infant son born to proud and loving parents Reverend Thomas L. Hoyt, Sr. and Mrs. Ida Wells Hoyt, and received his Bachelor's degree from Lane College in 1962, his Master of Divinity from The Interdenominational Theological Center in 1965, his Ph.D. from Duke University in 1975, and his Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity College in 1994; and

Whereas, a renowned author who has written three books and provided more than forty articles for professional journals and publications, Bishop Hoyt considers himself fortunate to have visited Pope John Paul II in Rome, Italy, and to have served as a delegate representing the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to World Council of Churches meetings across the world; and

Whereas, an ordained minister in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for thirty-one years, Bishop Hoyt possesses a love for and competence in the field of biblical literature that is reflected through his participation in the Society for the Study of Black Religion, Society of Biblical Literature, and American Academy of Religion; and

Whereas, Bishop Hoyt has been abundantly blessed with the love and admiration of a wonderful family whose members include his devoted wife, Ocie Harriett Hoyt; his two children, Doria Michelle and Thomas Edward, III; and his granddaughter, Ayanni Lanier Harvey;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in expressing our utmost appreciation to Bishop Hoyt for his unwavering commitment and steadfast dedication to the CME Church, and in wishing him and his congregation only the very best as they continue to serve the Christian mission; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Presiding Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr.

Offered by _____
Representative Juanita Head Walton
District No. 81

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4901, adopted December 30, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker